

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SAN MARCOS

THE CITY EXCHANGE

TV BROADCAST SYSTEM



The City of San Marcos has recently upgraded its TV broadcast system

FY2017 BUDGET



The San Marcos City Council has approved a budget of \$193.8 million for the 2017 fiscal year

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



"Don't Wait, Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."



Regular City Council Meetings

Held on the the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. Watch City Council meetings live on Time-Warner Cable Channel 10 and Grande Cable Channel 123-16. Live video streaming at www.sanmarcostx.gov

City Council

Daniel Guerrero, Mayor
Lisa Prewitt, Place 1
Jude Prather, Place 2
John Thomaides, Place 3
Jane Hughson, Place 4
Scott Gregson, Place 5
Melissa Derrick, Place 6

Useful Phone Numbers

Police Non-Emergency	512-753-2108
Parks and Recreation	512-393-8400
Permit Center	512-805-2630

Senior Activities

Finding Balance

Third Tuesday of the Month from 2-3 PM
San Marcos Activity Center
Exercise class with a focus on balance activities for 50+ Retired community for those of all activity levels. Participants need to wear loose/ stretchy comfortable clothing with rubber soled shoes.

50+ S.M.A.S.H. Trail Tours

first or second Wednesday of the month starting at 10 AM.

Upcoming tours:

Nov. 2: Prospect Park

Dec. 7: Lower Purgatory

Trail Tours focuses on parks and natural areas that provide great walking trails. For more information call 512.393.8400.

50+ S.M.A.S.H. Bowling Socials

Now Held Every Month from 2-4 PM
Sunset Bowling Lanes, 1304 HWY 123

Upcoming socials:

Thursday, Oct. 20

Thursday, Nov. 17

Thursday, Dec. 15

\$5 per person, includes shoe rental and two games of bowling. RSVP to nriali@sanmarcostx.gov or call 512.393.8275
For more information call 512.393.8400.
Come join us, it will be a SMASH!

Council Approves Budget, Maintains Tax Rate

2017

The San Marcos City Council has approved a budget of \$193.8 million for the 2017 fiscal year and voted to hold the property tax rate at 53.02 cents per \$100 of taxable value for the 10th year in a row.

The City Council also approved adjusting drainage utility rates to fund expanded maintenance and construction of drainage channels in San Marcos; adjusting water and wastewater rates in continuation of a gradual process to fund future water supply; and adjusting solid waste and recycling rates.

Budget

Highlights of the \$193,811,647 budget for Fiscal Year 2017, which begins Oct. 1, include an addition of 22 new personnel positions, as well as reclassification or modification to title or number of budgeted hours in four other positions. The departments receiving the new positions include City Clerk, Parks and Recreation, Fleet, Inspections, Finance, Code Compliance, Police, Traffic, Engineering, Fire, IT, Main Street, Electric Utility, Water/Wastewater Utility, Drainage Utility, and Resource Recovery Utility.

Utility Rates

Drainage utility rates: Over the past several years, the City Council has adjusted the Drainage Utility rates to fund drainage projects and maintenance.

This year a 10 percent adjustment was adopted. As a result, monthly residential

rates will increase by 52 cents to \$5.72 for small lots, 83 cents (to \$9.15) for medium lots, and 95 cents (to \$10.48) for large lots.

Water and wastewater rates The Citizen's Utility Advisory Board recommended a 5 percent adjustment to water rates and a 2 percent adjustment to wastewater rates, which the City Council approved.

The new rates will increase the average residential water and wastewater bill by \$2.75 per month. CUAB also recommended gradual increases over the next 3-5 years to help offset otherwise more dramatic adjustments once the Hays Caldwell Public Utility Agency project begins in FY 2019.

The HCPUA project will supply San Marcos with an additional 50-year water supply once it is fully implemented.

Resource Recovery rates Rates for residential curbside solid waste, green waste and recycling are being adjusted by approximately four percent.

The residential rates also include Green Guy Recycling services, Household Hazardous Waste drop off, brush drop off, downtown trash/recycling public container service, City special events trash, and community clean ups. The multi-family recycling rate is being adjusted by approximately four percent.

The multi-family rate also includes Green Guy Recycling services, Household Hazardous Waste drop off, downtown trash/recycling public container service, City special events trash, and community clean ups.

CARTS, City of San Marcos launch SMTX THE BUS with five new buses

CARTS has long served as San Marcos' choice public transit service, and now they are introducing five new buses to their fleet.

In addition to the brand new 29-passenger buses, CARTS is rebranding the San Marcos transit system, now known simply as THE BUS.

THE BUS is a newer, cleaner, greener city bus system that will revolutionize San Marcos transit.

THE BUS runs on ultra-clean diesel and boasts a spacious 29-seat interior and doubles

as a mobile office with free Wi-Fi on each bus.

THE BUS is free for Texas State University students (a partnership with the University), and half-price for seniors, persons with disabilities and elementary through high school students (with student I.D.).

It is \$1 for a one way ride, \$2 for an all-day pass, and \$30 for a monthly pass.

Passes can be purchased at the bus station on South Guadalupe.

Route information will be posted at each stop and online at smtxthebus.com.

City Unveils New TV Broadcast System



The City of San Marcos has recently upgraded its TV broadcast system and will be expanding programming on its cable channels 10 (Time Warner Cable) and 123-16 (Grande).

The new system is the first major upgrade since 1999 and allows the City to offer a wide variety of programming that is produced both by City staff and other government agencies, such as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Upcoming City programming will include

the San Marcos Minute, previews of special events, and the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter's Pet of the Week.

City Council meetings will continue to be aired live and then replayed throughout the week. The upgrade also included replacement of the cameras in the City Council Chambers with new HD cameras, offering better picture quality for viewers.

The channel will also be streamed online at www.sanmarcostx.gov/livetv.

The project was paid for with funds collected through cable franchise fees.

October is Fire Prevention Month



October is Fire Prevention Month and to celebrate, the San Marcos Fire Department is encouraging people to "Don't Wait, Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

Smoke detectors don't last forever. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requires smoke alarms to be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of the requirement, many homes have smoke detectors past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

"Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke detectors can have in a home

fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke detectors aren't working properly," said Les Stephens, San Marcos Fire Chief. "That's why we're making an effort to educate San Marcos residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit."

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (not the date of purchase).

Don't forget to test your smoke detectors monthly, and that batteries should be replaced once a year.

Community Events & Activities

Firefighter Civil Service Exam

The deadline to apply for the firefighter civil service exam is Monday, Oct. 21. The exam will be held on Friday, Oct. 28. There are six vacancies to be filled. Please contact our Human Resources Department at 512.393.8066 or 512.393.8000.

Farmer Fred's Harvest Fall Carnival

The festival will be held on Oct. 29 from 6-9 p.m. at Plaza Park. Admission is free. Candy, concessions, and other attractions are available for a fee. Please call 512.393.8400 for more information.

Costume Dance for Adults with Disabilities

Oct. 21, 2016 from 7-10 p.m. at the San

Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins. This free dance is for ages 18 and up.

Participants that require assistance must bring their own assistant.

Veterans Day Parade and Breakfast

Nov. 5, 2016 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Free breakfast on the Courthouse Lawn. Parade begins at 10 a.m. The parade entry form can be found at <https://goo.gl/forms/cJel5nO6XebwdFoB2>.

Holiday Dance for Adults with Disabilities

Dec. 16, 2016 from 7-10 p.m. at the San Marcos Activity Center, 501 E. Hopkins. This free dance is for ages 18 and up.

Participants that require assistance must bring their own assistant.



**REPLACE SMOKE
ALARMS EVERY
10 YEARS**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

firepreventionweek.org

**Don't
Wait**



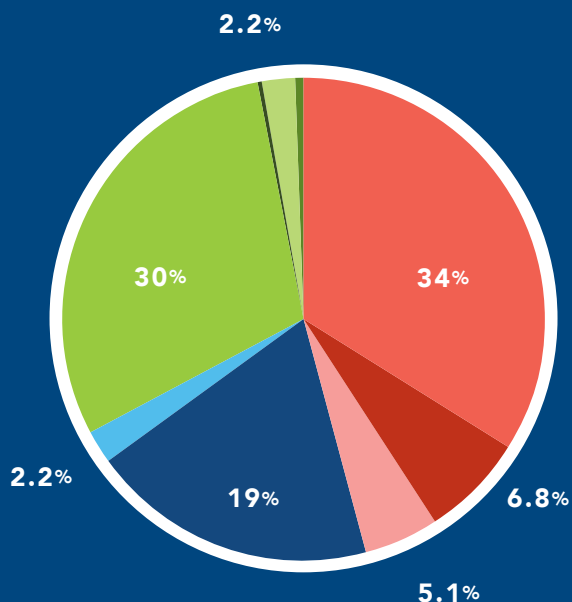
**CHECK
the date!**



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FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET

SAN MARCOS



The San Marcos City Council approved a budget of \$193.8 million for the 2017 fiscal year. "We are very proud of the fact that we have been able to maintain the same property tax rate for the last ten years while increasing our levels of service," said City Manager Jared Miller. "In addition to maintaining or increasing service levels, this budget includes notable enhancements to public safety and beautification."

TOTAL BUDGET \$193,811,647



Fast Facts



- City Council has held the property tax rate at 53.02 cents per \$100 of taxable value for 10 years.



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See the entire budget at sanmarcostx.gov